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Hello, my name is Sara Kovack, and I am a former educator from Hartford Public Schools. I am writing today in support of Raised Bill 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut.

As a former CT public school educator, I have seen firsthand the impact inequity has had in our schools. I have worked across the state, in some of the wealthiest and poorest districts. When working in wealthier districts across the state, I never had a need for resources such as copy paper. There were copy rooms full of WB Mason boxes that you could never get through in multiple school years. While teaching in Hartford, I was handed a single WB Mason box in September, and was told point blank to make it last until January. If we can't even provide basic things like copy paper to teachers in poorer districts, how can we truly say that we believe equally in the education of all of our students, across the state, regardless of the district?

This is why I believe this bill must be passed. Funding inequities across and within our schools are preventing our students--particularly our English Language Learners, students of color and children from low-income families--from getting the education they deserve. Connecticut students have faced unprecedented hardship over the past year, and cannot wait multiple years to attend a fully-funded school.